

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/087,809

Applicant(s)

RATZLAFF ET AL.

Examiner

PETER CHOI

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Examiner's Amendment entered 1/22/08.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3, 6-8, 11-14.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

  
BETH VAN DOREN  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

## DETAILED ACTION

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Trent A. Kirk (Reg No. 54,223) on January 18, 2008.

#### Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for designating dates in an interactive travel calendar comprising:

- providing an interface for users to select event ranges, each event range having a start date that chronologically precedes an end date;
- receiving a signal designating a first date associated with an event;
- receiving a signal designating a second date associated with an event;
- comparing the first date and the second date after receiving the respective signals designating the first and second dates in order to automatically determine a chronological relationship between the first date and the second date;
- automatically determining a start date for an event range based upon the chronological relationship between the first date and the second date, with the start date

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being the date earlier chronologically among the first and second date and the end date

being the date chronologically later among the first and second date; and

receiving a signal designating a new date associated with the event, wherein the new date is set as a new end date based on an automated determination that the new date falls chronologically within the event range, and the start date was selected before the end date, and wherein the new date is set as a new start date based on an automated determination that the new date falls chronologically within the event range, and the end date was selected before the start date; and

presenting information reflecting the event range.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

~~receiving a signal designating a new date associated with the event; and~~

setting the new date as a new end date based on an automated determination that the new date chronologically succeeds the end date for the event range to form a new event range.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

~~receiving a signal designating a new date associated with the event; and~~

setting the new date as a new start date based on an automated determination that the new date chronologically precedes the start date for the event range to form a new event range.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) A method for specifying an event range comprising:  
providing an interface for users to specify event ranges, each event range comprising a start date that chronologically precedes an end date;  
receiving a series of dates associated with an event;  
comparing two of the dates in the series of dates after receiving the series of dates in order to automatically determine a chronological relationship between the two dates in the series of dates;  
setting the two dates in the series of dates as a start date and an end date for an event range based on the chronological relationship between the two dates, with the date from the series set as the start date being chronologically earlier than the date from the series that is set as the end date; and  
setting a third date in the series as a new start date for the event range based on an automated determination that the third date falls within the event range, and the current start date was received before the current end date, and setting the third date in the series as a new end date for the event range based on an automated determination that the third date falls within the event range, and the current end date was received before the current start date; and  
presenting information reflecting the event range.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6 further comprising: setting a third date in the series as a new start date for the event range based on an automated determination that the third date precedes the start date of the event range.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6 further comprising: setting a third date in the series as a new end date for the event range based on an automated determination that the third date succeeds the end date of the event range.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A method for specifying an event range, comprising:  
setting a first date and a second date as an initial start date and an initial end date for an event range based on a chronological relationship between the first date and second date;

presenting information reflecting the event range; and

enabling a user to modify the presented information by selecting a third date, wherein the third date is set as a new start date for the event range based on an automated determination that the third date falls within the event range, and the initial start date was received before the initial end date, and wherein the third date is set as a

new end date for the event range based on an automated determination that the third date falls within the event range and the initial end date was received before the initial start date.

12. (Currently Amended) A data processing system having computer-readable instructions stored therein for generating a graphical user interface for selecting dates in an interactive calendar, the computer-readable instructions, when executed, causing the data processing system to:

generate an initial view including a monthly calendar interface for users to select event ranges thereon, each event range having a start date that chronologically precedes an end date, wherein upon receiving a signal designating a first date and a second date associated with an event in response to a respective selection on the monthly calendar interface by the user, the first date or the second date is designated as a start date for an event range based upon a chronological relationship between the first date and the second date, with the one of the first and second date that is chronologically before the other set as the start date, and the other date set as the end date; and

generate a new view including a monthly calendar interface presenting information reflecting the event range, wherein the new view further includes a range of selectable dates, and wherein upon receiving a signal designating a new date associated with the event in response to a selection on the monthly calendar interface by the user, the new date is set as a new end date based on an automated

determination that the new date falls chronologically within the event range, and the start date was selected before the end date, to form a new event range, and the new date is set as a new start date based on an automated determination that the new date falls chronologically within the event range, and the end date was selected before the start date, to form a new event range; and

generate a third view including a monthly calendar interface presenting information reflecting the new event range.

13. (Currently Amended) The data processing system of claim 12, wherein:  
~~the new view further includes a range of selectable dates, and wherein upon receiving a signal designating a new date associated with the event in response to a selection on the monthly calendar interface by the user, the new date is set as a new end date based on an automated determination that the new date chronologically succeeds the end date for the event range, to form a new event range; and~~  
~~a third view including a monthly calendar interface presenting information reflecting the new event range.~~

14. (Currently Amended) The data processing system of claim 12, wherein:  
~~the new view further includes a range of selectable dates, and wherein upon receiving a signal designating a new date associated with the event in response to a selection on the monthly calendar interface by the user, the new date is set as a new~~

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start date based on an automated determination that the new date chronologically precedes the start date for the event range, to form a new event range; and

~~a third view including a monthly calendar interface presenting information reflecting the new event range.~~

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)



2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The cited prior art taken alone or in combination, fails to teach the claimed invention set forth in claims 1-3, 6-8 and 11-14. Specifically, the invention as set forth in the claims, is directed to designate dates in an interactive travel calendar comprising:

providing an interface for users to select event ranges, each event range having a start date that chronologically precedes an end date;

receiving a signal designating a first date associated with an event;

receiving a signal designating a second date associated with an event;

comparing the first date and the second date after receiving the respective signals designating the first and second dates in order to automatically determine a chronological relationship between the first date and the second date;

automatically determining a start date for an event range based upon the chronological relationship between the first date and the second date, with the start date being the date earlier chronologically among the first and second date and the end date being the date chronologically later among the first and second date; and

receiving a signal designating a new date associated with the event, wherein the new date is set as a new end date based on an automated determination that the new date falls chronologically within the event range, and the start date was selected before the end date, and wherein the new date is set as a new start date based on an

automated determination that the new date falls chronologically within the event range, and the end date was selected before the start date; and  
presenting information reflecting the event range.

The closest prior art, Forbes et al. (US Patent #5,659,768) teaches a graphical time representation of tasks. Signals are received from the user designating the start and end date of an event, and users are able to modify said event by extending the start and end dates, moving the event in its entirety while maintaining the duration from the initial input of start and end dates, and shortening the duration by allowing users to modify either the start or end date.

Although Forbes et al. allows users to input the start and end dates of an event, Forbes et al. does not teach the step of automatically determining the start and end dates of an event based on the chronological relationship between the user provided input, instead relying upon the user to make the determination of the start and end date and entering input parameters accordingly.

Although Forbes et al. allows users to (1) set a new date as a new start date if said new date precedes the start date, (2) set a new date as a new end date if said new date succeeds the end date, and (3) modify either the start or end date if the new date falls within the event range, Forbes et al. relies on the user to determine the relationship between the new date and event range defined by the previously input start and end

dates; Forbes et al. does not teach the step of **automatically** determining whether a new date precedes the start date, succeeds the end date, or falls within the event range. Furthermore, in the event that the new date falls within the event range, Forbes et al. does not teach the step of **automatically determining which date (start date vs. end date) was selected first and setting the new date based on said determination.**

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to PETER CHOI whose telephone number is (571)272-6971. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tariq Hafiz can be reached on (571) 272-6729. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

PC

January 22, 2008

  
BETH VAN DOREN  
PRIMARY EXAMINER